

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD **EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AWARD PROGRAM (EAAP)**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

AWARD AMOUNT

Q: HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I GET EACH YEAR FOR SCHOOL?

A: You can receive *up to* the following amounts for the 2009-2010 academic year:

- \$7,788 at the University of California or a nonpublic institution (per Cal Grant A)
- \$4,026 at California State University (per Cal Grant A)
- Graduate studies: up to the maximum amount of Cal Grant A + \$500 for books and supplies [per section 69999.18 (c)]
- \$1,551 at Community College (per Cal Grant B)

The maximum amounts reflect the annotated Cal Grant awards. Cal Grant maximum amounts are refigured annually and subject to change.

Q: ARE CAL GRANT A AND B DOLLAR AMOUNTS PER SEMESTER OR PER YEAR?

A: The amounts are for one academic year and will be sent out as a check during each term (semester, quarter).

Q: HOW WILL I RECEIVE PAYMENT?

A: You will receive payment through your institution's Financial Aid office. This will be in the form of a check written in your name. Upon receipt of the check, funds may be immediately subject to satisfying any financial holds attached to your account at the school.

ELIGIBILITY

Q: I'VE BEEN IN THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD FOR OVER 4 YEARS, BUT I LIVE IN NEVADA. DOES THIS AFFECT MY ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CNG EAAP?

A: Yes, only residents of California are eligible for awards.

Q: I SERVED 4 YEARS IN THE ACTIVE ARMY BUT HAVE ONLY BEEN IN THE CNG FOR 1 YEAR. DOES MY ACTIVE DUTY TIME COUNT TOWARDS THE 2-YEAR REQUIREMENT?

A: No, a CNG EAAP participant must have a minimum of 2 years of service in the California National Guard.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Q: WHAT IS UIC/PAS?

A: A UIC is a Unit Identification Code (6 characters) in the Army, and PAS is a Personnel Accounting Symbol (8 characters) in the Air Force. Both codes are specific to your unit of assignment. If you do not know this code, you should call your unit.

Q: I AM PART OF THE STATE MILITARY RESERVE. WE DO NOT HAVE A UIC. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

A: In the application field for the UIC/PAS, type eight 0s and continue.

Q: THE FORM ASKS ME TO CHOOSE THE CAL GRANT OR THE CNG EAAP. HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

A: The Cal Grant program is more exclusive than the CNG EAAP.

EAAP	Cal Grant
Only for California National Guard or State Military Reserve	Open to general public
Merit-based There are no GPA requirements to enter the program.	Based on income, age (must have graduated high school after July 1, 2000), and GPA (2.0 to attend a community college, 3.0 to attend a UC or CSU).
Can be used for any degree not currently held	Can be used for an undergraduate or vocational degree (applicant cannot already hold an undergraduate degree)
Must attend at least 3 units a term	Must attend at least 6 units a term

Q: HOW DO I COMPLETE THE STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING?

A: Once you’ve initialed all of the boxes and filled in the blanks on the SOU and signed the second page, you need to coordinate with your unit of assignment to have your Commander sign it prior to turning it in. In most cases, this can be done by mail, fax, scan, or in person. After getting your Commander’s signature, the SOU needs to be sent back to Ms. Katrina Beck at Joint Forces Headquarters by e-mail or fax. (katrina.beck2@us.army.mil or fax (916) 854-3739)

Q: I HAD TO REPORT MY ANNUAL INCOME ON THE FAFSA AND WANTED TO KNOW IF IT WAS BEING USED TO DECIDE WHO GETS AWARDED. I MAKE A DECENT INCOME, SO IS IT A WASTE OF TIME TO EVEN BOTHER APPLYING?

A: No; the CNG EAAP is a merit-based program and has nothing to do with your income level. At no time is your annual income used or referenced for this program.

Q: HOW WILL I KNOW IF I GOT SELECTED OR NOT AFTER SUBMITTING MY APPLICATION?

A: You will receive correspondence through the mail stating whether or not you were selected to receive an EAAP award.

Q: CAN I APPLY NOW FOR THE FALL 2010 SEMESTER? IF NOT, WHEN DOES THE APPLICATION PERIOD START FOR THE 2010-11 ACADEMIC YEAR?

A: Applications will be available for the new 2010-2011 academic year starting late April.

INSTITUTIONS

Q: WHERE CAN I FIND A LIST OF ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS?

A: The list is available in a drop-down box on the application. You can also check eligible institutions at http://sandbox.csac.ca.gov/internet/Institution_Search.asp?mode=retrieve. This site also allows a search by city.

Q: MY INSTITUTION IS NOT LISTED ON THE APPLICATION. HOW CAN MY INSTITUTION BE ADDED TO THE LIST OF ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS?

A: Contact your institution's veteran's benefits coordinator or the financial aid office. They can contact Adeline Espinosa at 916-464-6467 or AEspinos@csac.ca.gov.

ABSENCES

Q: I APPLIED FOR THE PROGRAM BUT DECIDED NOT TO ATTEND THIS ACADEMIC YEAR. IS THERE SOMETHING I NEED TO DO TO MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY?

A: Yes, you must submit a letter stating you wish to withdraw your application to Ms. Katrina Beck at Joint Forces Headquarters by e-mail or fax. (katrina.beck2@us.army.mil or fax (916) 854-3739)

Q: I AM NOT ATTENDING FOR THE FALL SEMESTER. WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO STAY IN THE PROGRAM?

A: If you are going to miss one or more semesters, you need to submit a Leave of Absence request in order to keep your priority number. If you do not submit a LOA request, you will have to reapply to the program and go through the prioritizing process. Send the request to Ms. Katrina Beck at Joint Forces Headquarters by e-mail or fax. (katrina.beck2@us.army.mil or fax (916) 854-3739)